

UNCLASSIFIED

AA002

HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY

1/24/79

ARGENTINA: BODIES WASHED ASHORE

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SOURCE: Buenos Aires 0530

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(X) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s):
Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason

Press and other sources report that a number of decomposed and partially dismembered bodies washed ashore in December on the Atlantic coast southeast of Buenos Aires. One press source, who was discouraged by the presidency from publishing the results of his investigation, placed the figure at 38. Representatives of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, however, were told by an investigating judge that 17 bodies had been recovered, mostly young males. None, said the judge, have been identified.

During January, according to Embassy Buenos Aires, several members of the Mothers group filed habeas corpus petitions requesting the judiciary to verify that neither the beached bodies nor the victims of other recently reported incidents were their missing children.

Representatives of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights have stated to the Embassy their belief that the bodies were dumped in the ocean by aircraft operating out of a nearby naval station (Punto Indio-about 100 miles southeast of Buenos Aires). This is one of several reports that have reached the Embassy concerning the alleged dumping of bodies in the ocean.

Similar reports about bodies washing ashore emerged in February and March 1978. To the Embassy's knowledge, none of those bodies ^{was} ~~were~~ ever identified.

INR/RAR: J. Buchanan

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